Utah Chronology

UTAH'S DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITIES

A BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF EMINENT CONTEMPORANEOUS MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE THE FAITHFUL BUILDERS AND DEFENDERS OF THE STATE

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The contents are systematically arranged to conform to a dignified style most comprehensive and suitable for reference work.

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Chronology of Utah History

1540—Captain Garcit Lopez de Cardenas, lieutenant of Vasquez de Coronado, discovered the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and supposedly visited what it now known as San Juan County, Utah.

1670—May 2, Hudson's Bay Company received its charter from the British government.

1689—Baron La Hontan, French writer and explorer, published the first account of a great Salt Lake in the Rocky Mountain country. This story was obtained from the Indians.

1776—Sept. 12. Dominguez and Escalante, Spanish explorers, entered Utah in what is now Uinta County, supposedly the first white men to gaze upon Utah Lake.

1783—Dec. Northwest Company (fur traders) was organized.

1801—June 1. Brigham Young (great Mormon leader) was born at Whitingham, Vermont.

1805—Dec. 23. Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was born at Sharon, Windsor Co., Va.

1822—March. The Rocky Mountain Fur Company was organized at St. Louis, by General William H. Ashley and Andrew Henry.

1824—Dec. "Jim" Bridger, an employee of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, coming down from the north, discovered the Great Salt Lake.

1825—General W. H. Ashley built a fort (Ft. Ashley) on the banks of Utah Lake; this was the first trading post in Utah.

1828—Dec. 18. Peter Skeen Ogden, of the Hudson Bay Company, encamped with trappers at the north end of Great Salt Lake; he had discovered the river and canyon that bears his name in 1825.

1830—April 6. With six members, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, at Fayette, Seneca Co., New York.

1831—Aug. 3. A site for an L. D. S. Temple was dedicated in Jackson Co., Mo., by Joseph Smith, founder of the L. D. S. Church.

1832—July. Captain Benjamin L. E. Bonneville took the first wagons through the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains; later some of th esame wagons came into Utah.

1833—The "Word of Wisdom" was adopted into the Mormon (L. D. S.) religion by Joseph Smith, at Kirtland, Ohio.

1835—Feb. 17. The first Quorum of Twelve Apostles in the L. D. S. Church was organized at Kirtland, Ohio.

1839—May. The Latter-day Saints began to gather at Nauvoo, Hancock Co., Ill., where they remained for about seven years before pioneering Utah.

1841—Miles M. Goodyear, established a trading post where the city of Ogden now stands.

1843—Sept. 8. Lt. John C. Fremont, with Kit Carson and several others rowed down from the mouth of Weber River to an island in Great Salt Lake, which they named "Disappointment" Island (now known as Fremont Island).

1844—June 27. Joseph Smith (L. D. S. Prophet, and leader) and his brother Hyrum Smith, were murdered in Carthage, Ill.

1846—June 26. The "Mormon Battalion" consisting of five hundred volunteers, left Council Bluffs, Iowa, for San Diego, Calif., where they arrived January 29, 1847, to serve in the U. S. Army in California.

1847—July 22. Orson Pratt, Erastus Snow, and forty-two other emigrants, arrived at Great Salt Lake Valley.

1847—July 23. First furrow was plowed by William Carter, where Salt Lake City now stands.
1847—July 24. Brigham Young, president of the Mormon Church, and the main body of pioneers joined the advance company in Salt Lake Valley. This day has since been celebrated as "Pioneer Day" and is a legal holiday in Utah.
1847—July 25. First religious services were held in Salt Lake City.
1847—July 29. A Mormon Battalion from Arkansas headed by Captain James Brown arrived in Salt Lake City.
1847—August 2. The planning of Salt Lake City began.
1847—August 9. First white child was born in Salt Lake Valley (daughter of John and Katherine Steele).
1848—Feb. 2. The treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo was concluded ending the Mexican War. The present state of Utah was then ceded to the United States by Mexico.
1849—Feb. 10. First constitution was adopted in the State of Deseret by a convention at Salt Lake City.
1849—March 1. First post office was established at Salt Lake City.
1849—March 12. Officers for the government of the proposed State of Deseret were elected in Salt Lake City.
1849—July 2. First legislature was convened in Salt Lake City.
1849—Dec. 2. First Sunday School was organized.
1849—Dec. Six counties were created by the legislature: Juab, Salt Lake, Sanpete, Tooele, Utah and Weber.
1850—Feb. 28. Deseret University (now University of Utah) was incorporated.
1850—June 15. The first publication in Utah (Deseret News), came from the press.
1850—Sept. 9. President Fillmore apprvoed the act of congress creating the Territory of Utah.
1850—Sept. 20. First territorial officers were appointed.
1850—Nov. 11. The University of Deseret (now University of Utah) was opened, but shortly afterwards closed.
1850—Dec. 5. Davis County was created.
1851—Jan. 9. Salt Lake City was incorporated.
1851—Jan. 27. First official news of creation of Utah Territory reached Salt Lake City.
1851—April 7. It was voted to build a temple at Salt Lake City. Election of first municipal officers of Salt Lake City.
1851—Feb. 3. Brigham Young was appointed governor of Utah Territory and ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs.
1850—April 15. First meeting of the Salt Lake Council.
1850—Aug. 1. First earthenware manufactured in Salt Lake City.
1851—Sept. 22. First legislature of the Territory of Utah was held; Heber C. Kimball was elected president of the council, William W. Phelps speaker of the House.
1852—Feb. 2. Utah Territorial Library was opened. William C. Staines as librarian.
1852—Feb. 3. Millard and Washington Counties were created.
1852—Nov. 11. University of Deseret (now University of Utah) was opened and began its first term.
1852—Feb. 14. The Temple Block in Salt Lake City was consecrated and work began for the erection of the Mormon Temple.
1853—Nov. 2. A company left Salt Lake City to establish a settlement at Fort Bridger, Wyoming.
1854—Jan. Summit County was organized and in December Iron County was created.

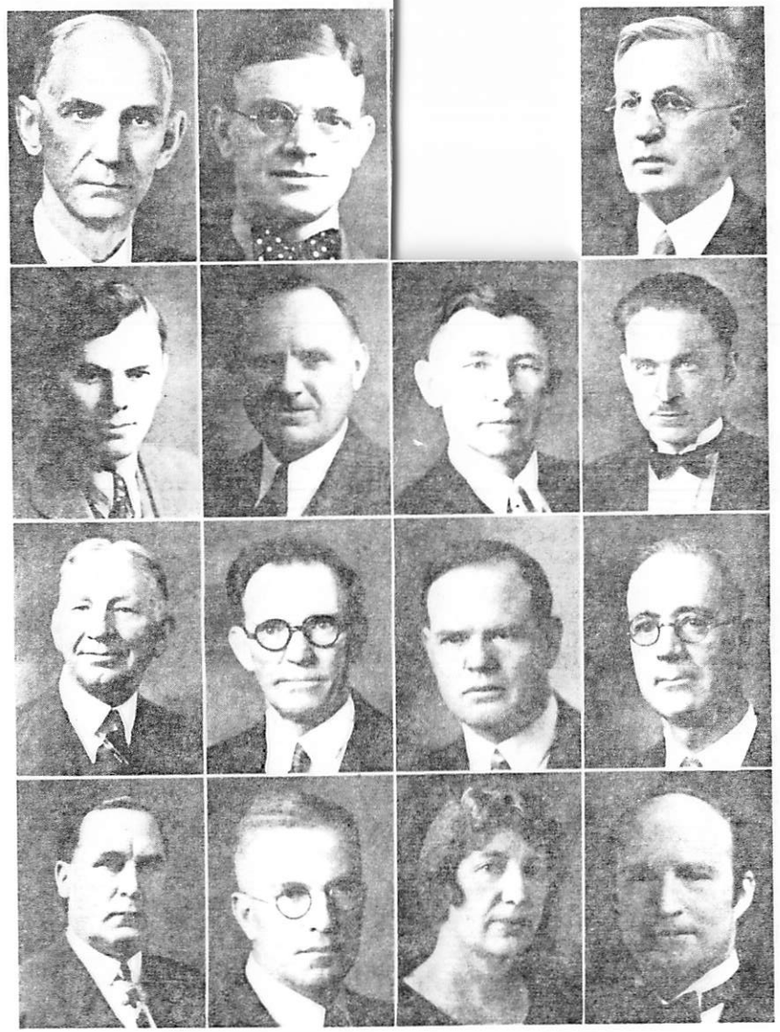
1855—Feb. 14. The Mormon Endowment House in Salt Lake City, was dedicated. This year also, the Lion House was erected.
1856—Jan. 5. Box Elder and Cache counties were created.
1856—March 17. Second Constitutional Convention met; on the 27th the constitution was adopted.
1856—Sept. 26. The first two handcart companies of Latter-day Saints arrived in Salt Lake City. Three other companies followed the same year.
1857—Oct. 17. First fire department in Utah was organized at Salt Lake City.
1857—June 26. Alfred Cummings succeeded Brigham Young as Territorial governor of Utah. This change was made by appointment of President Buchanan.
1860—April 7. The first "Pony Express" arrived in Salt Lake City. It came from Sacramento; two days later (April 9) the first "Pony Express' coming from St. Joseph, Missouri, arrived in Salt Lake City, connecting east and west.
1861—March 2. Part of Utah was cut off and became the Territory of Nevada.
1861—Oct. 18. The Overland Telegraph Line was completed from the eastern states into Salt Lake City, and on the 24th of the same month it was completed from the Pacific Coast.
1862—Jan. Morgan County was created.
1862—Jan. 20. Third constitutional convention met in Salt Lake City.
1862—March 8. First theatrical performance was held in the Salt Lake Theatre.
1862—May. Provisions were sent from Utah to the Missouri River to aid a company of emigrants in crossing the plains into Utah.
1862—Oct. 18. The site of Camp Douglas (now Fort Douglas) was selected by Col. Patrick E. Connor.
1863—Jan. 29. Col. Patrick E. Connor attacked the camp of Chief Bear Hunter on the Bear River; 250 Indians were killed and the band ceased their depredations on the early settlers.
1864—Jan. 16. Kane and Rich counties were created.
1865—Jan. Piute and Sevier Counties were created.
1865—Apr. 10. Three men were killed and scalped in Sanpete County. This was the beginning of the Black Hawk Indian war which lasted for several years after.
1866—Jan. 10. Beaver County was organized; it had been created by the legislature in 1855.
1866—April 18. Chief Sanpitch was killed at the mouth of Birch Canyon, Sanpete County.
1866—Establishment of Catholic religion in Utah, Rev. Father Kelley, was pastor.
1868—July 25. Wyoming Territory was created by President Andrew Johnson; a part of Utah was added to the new territory.
1869—March 8. The U. S. Land Office in Salt Lake City was opened.
1869—May 10. The Golden Spike was driven signifying the completion of the transcontinental railroad by the junction of the Union and the Central Pacific railroads at Promontory, Box Elder County.
1869—Oct. 3. Schuyler Colfax, Vice President of the United States, addressed the people of Salt Lake City.
1869—Nov. 24. First street lamps were lighted in Salt Lake City.
1869—First Presbyterian church was established in Corinne, Utah; first services were held on June 13th, same year.
1870—Jan. 10. The Utah Central (now O. S. L. R. R.) was completed into Salt Lake City, and the first train arrived in the Utah Capitol.
1870—Oct. 12. The old arsenal in Salt Lake City was destroyed.

1871—Jan. 17. The Utah Southern Railway Co. was organized and the line from Salt Lake to Draper was completed.
1871—Nov. 12. First Presbyterian church was organized in Salt Lake City.
1871—Nov. 26. First Catholic Church in Utah was dedicated by Father Walsh.
1872—Jan. The Salt Lake City Street Railway Co. was organized and street cars drawn by mules were introduced during the year.
1872—Feb. 19. The fourth constitutional convention met in Salt Lake City.
1872—May 25. The Salt Lake City Gas Co. was organized.
1872—Jan. 8. The first passenger train was placed in service on the Utah Northern Railroad (now a part of the O. S. L. System).
1872—Sept. 3. Ground was broken for the first waterworks system in Utah, at Salt Lake City.
1873—June 30. Salt Lake City streets were lighted with gas for the first time.
1874—Feb. 6. The Utah Northern Railroad was completed and opened for traffic, between Ogden and Brigham City.
1874—May 7. The Forty-Fourth Annual Conference of the Latter-day Saint Church was held. A branch of the United Order was ornagized with Brigham Young as President.
1875—April 12. Beginning of Collegiate Institute and Westminster College, opened by J. M. Coyner.
1875—June 10. The Y. M. M. I. A. of the L. D. S. Church was organized at Salt Lake City. The L. D. S. Tabernacle was dedicated.
1875—Westminster College was established.
1875—Sept. St. Mary's Academy was established.
1875—Oct. 16. The Brigham Young Academy (now Brigham Young University) at Provo was founded.
1875—Oct. 25. First Holy Cross Hospital was opened.
1876—Oct. 3. Gen. Wm. T. Sherman and party visited Salt Lake City.
1877—April 6. The first L. D. S. Temple in Utah was dedicated in St. George, Aug. 29. Brigham Young (great Mormon leader) died in Salt Lake City.
1877—Sacred Heart Academy was erected in Ogden.
1880—Feb. 15. Emery, San Juan and Uintah Counties were created by Gov. Murray.
1880—Sept. 11. First electric lights were demonstrated in Salt Lake City.
1881—May 25. The Old Mill, or Locus Farm, was purchased by Salt Lake City for a public park. It is now known as Liberty Park.
1881—July 17. "Jim" Bridger, trapper, scout and discoverer of Great Salt Lake, died at his home near Kansas Ctiy, Mo.
1881—July 27. Gen. Benjamin Harrison (later President of the United States), John Sherman and others visited Salt Lake City.
1882—March 9. Garfield County was created by Gov. Murray.
1882—Apr. 10. Fifth constitutional convention assembled.
1883—March 30. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was completed, connecting Salt Lake City with Grand Junction, Colo.
1885—July 20. Territorial insane asylum (now the Mental Hospital) was opened at Provo.
1886—All Hallows College was established for boys.
1887—July 25. John Taylor (president of the Mormon Church) died at Kaysville, Utah, an exile, on account of anti-polygamy prosecutions.
1887—July 30. Sixth constitutional convention assembled.
1888—Mar. 18. Utah State Agricultural College was founded.
1888—April 5. General Board of Education of the L. D. S. Church was organized.
1889—Oct. 31. The Utah Reform School (now the Industrial School) at Ogden, was opened.

1890—Sept. 24. The Manifesto was passed, or issued by the president of the Mormon Church.
1891—Feb. Wayne County was created.
1891—March 26. It was decided to build a combination city and county building at Salt Lake City. The building was dedicated Dec. 28, 1895.
1891—May 9. President Benjamin Harrison and party arrived in Salt Lake City.
1891—May 17. Father Scanlan became first bishop of the Salt Lake Diocese of the Catholic Church.
1891—Oct. 15. St.Ann's Orphanage was opened.
1891—Dec. 17. Gen. Patrick E. Connor died at the Walker House, Salt Lake City.
1892—The University of Deseret was changed to the University of Utah.
1892—March 12. Grand County was created.
1893—April 6. Salt Lake Temple was dedicated. June 1st of the same year Saltair was opened to the public.
1894—Jan. 17. Carbon County was created.
1894—May 12. "General" Carter's industrial army captured a train at Lehi and ran to Provo where the train was stopped. Carter and twenty-six of his men were arrested and taken to the penitentiary. Carter's Army was a party of the "Coxey Movement."
1894—July 16. President Cleveland approved the Enabling Act, or Utah Statehood Bill, which authorized the people of Utah to form a constitution and elect state officers, preparatory to admission to the Union.
1894—Aug. 1. Proclamation was issued calling for election of delegates to a constitutional convention.
1894—Nov. 6. Delegates to the constitutional convention were elected.
1895—Feb. 27. Utah State Medical Society was organized.
1895—March 4. A constitutional convention met in Salt Lake City.
1895—Nov. 5. The constitution was ratified by the people of Utah; Republicans were elected.
1896—Jan. 4. Utah was admitted to the Union.
1896—Jan. 6. The first State Legislature convened.
1897—July 14. Trans-Mississippi Congress met in Salt Lake City; Wm. J. Bryan was president.
1895—Aug. 27. A new star was added to the U. S. flag for Utah; that increased the number of stars on the national emblem to 45.
1896—Jan. 4. Pres. Cleveland signed the proclamation which admitted Utah to the Union. Jan. 6th officers were installed, Heber M. Wells was first governor of the State of Utah.
1897—July 20. Pioneer Monument was dedicated.
1897—July 24. The semi-centennial of the entrance of the pioneers into Salt Lake Valley was celebrated.
1898—Feb. 15. U. S. Battleship Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor.
1898—April 25. Congress declared war against Spain.
1898—May 9. Utah's artillery and cavalry were sent itno U. S. service for the war with Spain.
1898—May 20. Batteries A and B left Salt Lake City for San Francisco enroute to Philippine Islands.
1898—July 14. Battery C went into U. S. service.
1898—Sept. 2. Wilford Woodruff (president of the Mormon Church) died in Salt Lake City. Lorenzo Snow became next president.
1899—Aug. 19. Batteries A and B arrived in Salt Lake City on their return from the Philippine Islands. Gov. Wells proclaimed a holiday.

1900—July 24. The final unveiling of the Brigham Young Monument took place in Salt Lake City.
1901—Oct. 10. Lorenzo Snow (president of L. D. S. Church) died. Joseph F. Smith became president.
1903—March 5. Reed Smoot of Utah was sworn in as U. S. Senator at a special session held in Washington, D. C.
1905—Jan. 4. The Dr. Groves Latter-day Saint Hospital was dedicated.
1905—Jan. 30. The San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad was completed.
1905—Nov. 29. The new postoffice in Salt Lake City was opened.
1908—May 12. Governors of the states met at Washington, D. C.; it was the first meeting to consider the conservation of natural resources.
1909—April 3. Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, of the U. S. Navy, visited Salt Lake City and lectured in the Mormon Tabernacle.
1909—Sept. 24. President Wm. H. Taft, visited Salt Lake City.
1910—Jan. First number of the "Utah Genealogical and Historiacl Magazine was published in Salt Lake City.
1911—May 13. Gov. Spry, appointed a capitol commission authorizing the erection of a new capitol building.
1911—Sept. Dixie College at St. George, Utah, was opened.
1912—Sept. 13. Theodore Roosevelt, progressive candidate for President of the United States addressed an audience in Ogden.
1913—April 3. The first "Overland Limited" deluxe train passed through Utah westbound over the Union Pacific Railroad.
1913—July 31. Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, visited Salt Lake City.
1914—Aug. 13. Duchesne County was declared organized.
1915—Jan. 20. A prohibition bill prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquor in the State of Utah passed the Senate of the Utah Legislature.
1916—June 18. Utah was called upon for two troops of cavalry and a battery of light artillery for service on the Mexican border.
1916—June 27. Captain Webb's Battery left Ft. Douglas for Nogales, Arizona, to engage in the Mexican War.
1916—Oct. 9. Utah's new capitol building was dedicated.
1917—Feb. The L. D. S. Church offices were completed.
1917—April 6. Utah State Council of Defense was organized.
1917—June 5. First registration of all able-bodied men in U. S., between the ages of twenty-one and thirty years. Utah registered 41,952.
1917—June 26. Gov. Simon Bamberger appointed Richard W. Young as colonel of the Utah Light Artillery (National Guard of Utah). This artillery proceeded to France with the American Army.
1917—Aug. 1. Prohibition went into effect.
1917—Nov. 6. Daggett County was officially declared organized by Governor Bamberger.
1918—Nov. 11. The armistice was signed, bringing the World War to an end.
1918—Nov. 23. Heber J. Grant succeeded Joseph F. Smith as president of the L. D. S. Church.
1919—July 31. The "Utacarbon," Utah's honor ship, was launched at Alameda, California.
1919—Aug. 18. The eleventh annual conference of state governors began in Salt Lake City.
1919—Sept. 23. President Woodrow Wilson addressed a large audience in the L. D. S. Tabernacle.
1919—Sept. 29. The Utah Legislature convened in special session.
1920—Sept. 15. Zion National Park in Southern Utah was dedicated and opened to the public.

1921—Gov. Mabey became governor of Utah, term ending in 1924.
1922—July 24. The monument "This is the place" at the mout hof Emigration Canyon was erected.
1922—Sept. 3. Geo. Sutherland was appointed justice of the U. S. Supreme Court from Utah.
1922—Oct. 20. Timpanogos cave in American Fork Canyon was made a National Monument.
1923—June 8. The President of the United States proclaimed the creation of Bryce Monument.
1924—June 7. Bryce Canyon was made a National Park.
1924—April 4. El Escalante Hotel of the U. P. System was opened at Cedar City.
1925—April 26. Saltair Beach pavilion burned.
1927—May 30. The monument erected in honor of the Mormon Battalion was unveiled in Salt Lake City.
1927—July 27. Cross continent air mail service began by Boeing Air Transport Company from Chicago and New York to San Francisco.
1928—Aug. 1. Air mail service began between Salt Lake City and Great Falls, Montana, by National Parks Airways.
1929—Sept. 20. Natural gas was turned on in the first homes in Salt Lake City.
1930—April 6. The hundredth anniversary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was celebrated. It was the largest celebration ever held in Salt Lake City.
1930—May 30. A monument was unveiled to the honor of Gen. Patrick Edward Connor, in Ft. Douglas cemetery, by the Utah Historical Landmarks Association.
1930—July 7. The construction of Boulder Dam began.
1930—Oct. J. Reuben Clark appointed U. S. ambassador to Mexico.
1931—July 31. Began construction of the new Veterans Hospital in Salt Lake City, and it was completed July 24, 1932.
1931—July 31. Work began on the new zoo in Salt Lake City. It was opened to the public in 1932.
1932—July 4. Rev. Father Kearney was appointed head of the Salt Lake Diocese at the Cathedral of the Madeleine.
1932—Sept. 17. Governor Roosevelt, then governor of New York, visited Salt Lake City on his campaign tour for the Presidency of the United States.
1932—Nov. 1. The first offices were opened in the new Federal building in Salt Lake City.
1932—Nov. Henry H. Blood was elected governor of Utah.
1932—Nov. Elbert D. Thomas was elected U. S. Senator from Utah.
1932—Nov. 7. President Herbert Hoover visited Salt Lake City on his campaign tour; later in March of 1933 he vistied Ogden on his return to California as a private citizen.
1933—Jan. The twentieth session of the Utah Legislature convened.
1933—The new Federal building in Salt Lake City was opened.
1933—March. George H. Dern, formerly governor of Utah, was appointed Secretary of War.
1933—Mar. A bank holiday throughout the state was declared by Gov. Blood.
1933—April 6. The L. D. S. Church held its semi-annual conference in Salt Lake City.
1933—April 6. J. Reuben Clark, former ambassador to Mexico, was appointed counselor and member of the First Presidency in the L. D. S. Church.
1933—April 27. The U. S. Congress passed a remonetization of silver bill.



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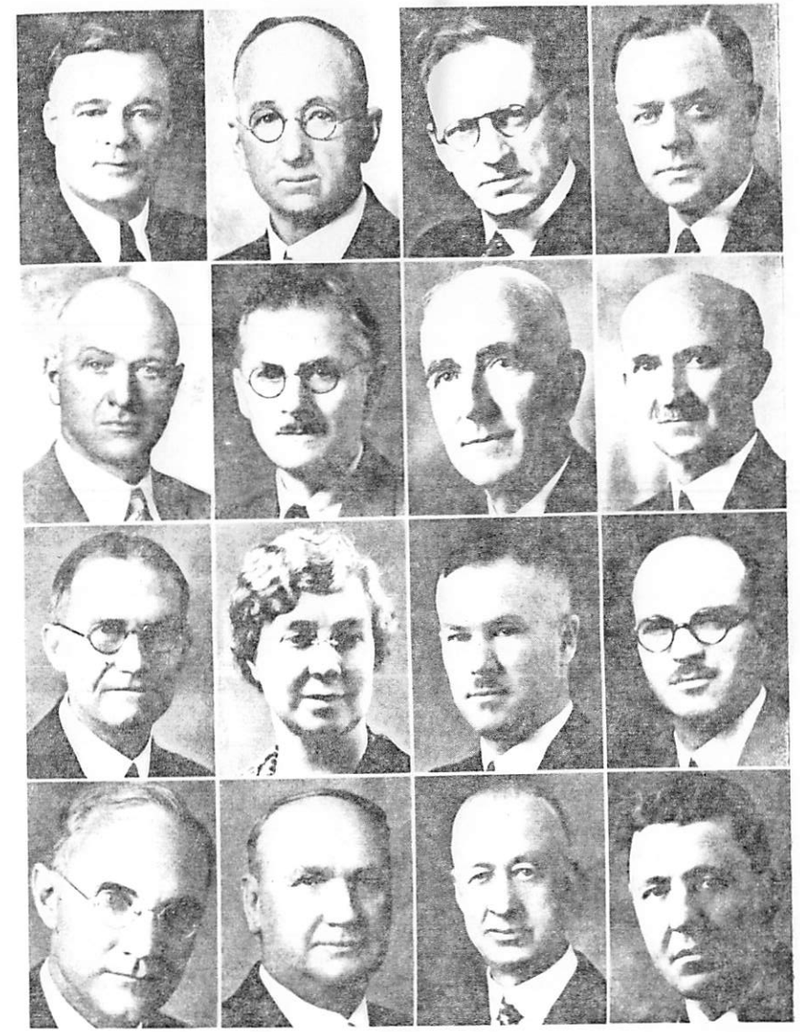

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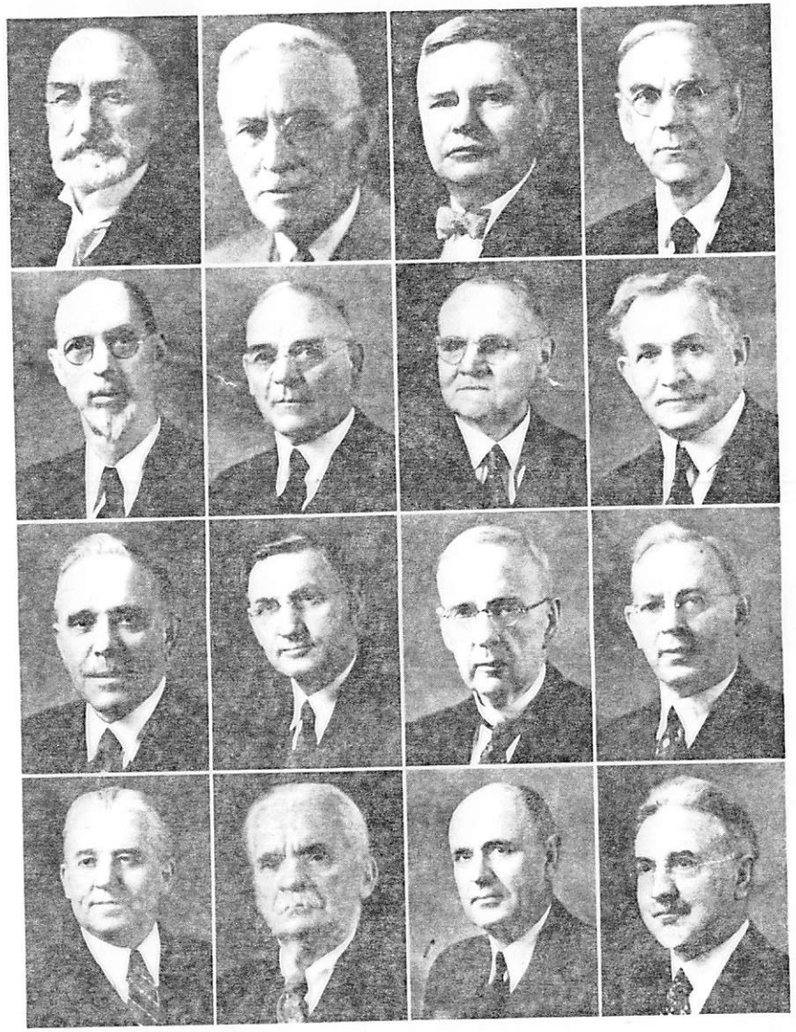

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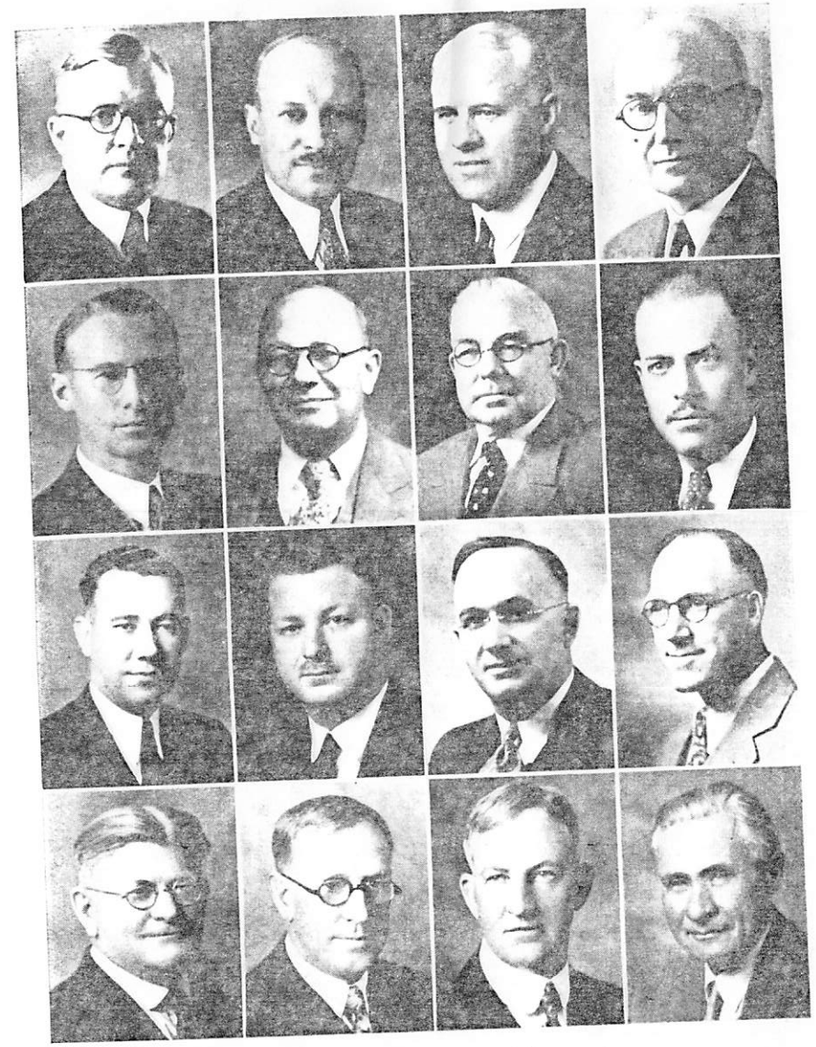

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